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Letter dated 10 February 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 26 January 2017 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, transmitting the report on the international security presence in Kosovo, covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2016 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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Annex

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I hereby attach a quarterly report on Kosovo Force operations covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2016 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making the report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jens **Stoltenberg**

Enclosure

Report to the United Nations on Kosovo Force operations

1. The present report on the Kosovo Force (KFOR) is submitted in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and covers the period from 1 October to 31 December 2016.

2. As at 31 December 2016, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre was 4,150. During the reporting period, there were no major security incidents, and there was no requirement for direct intervention by KFOR.

Security situation and operations

3. During the reporting period, there were no major changes to the overall security situation in Kosovo, which remained stable on the whole. In general, the trend is gradually growing more positive, as Serbia and Kosovo remain committed to the dialogue process under the auspices of the European Union.

4. KFOR continued to work in close cooperation and coordination with the Kosovo Police and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). One example is the recent Silver Sabre 2016 exercise, which was jointly executed with other security providers in Kosovo, namely, the Kosovo Police, EULEX and the Kosovo Security Forces, in Pristina and its vicinity in November.

5. As part of its efforts to maintain an effective force posture in all sensitive areas and to respond immediately if required, KFOR continued to conduct training and performed operational rehearsal activities in November and December to verify the readiness of the operational reserve forces.

6. During the first week of December, KFOR removed defences established in 2004 at the entrance of the Devic Monastery in the Skenderaj municipality, following an official request by the nuns living in the monastery. This event is a clear signal of the improving security situation and the ongoing normalization of relations between the Serb Orthodox Church and the institutions in Kosovo.

Summary

7. During the reporting period, KFOR continued to contribute to maintaining both a safe and secure environment and ensuring freedom of movement as part of a comprehensive international effort. The close coordination on the ground between KFOR, in its capacity as third responder, EULEX and the Kosovo Police continues to be highly effective.